

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1.-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a nucleic acid which encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:6.

27. (Original) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 26 wherein the proteinaceous molecule exhibits at least one of the following properties:

(i) an ability to induce vascular endothelial cells;  
(ii) an ability to interact with *flt-1/flk-1* family of receptors; and/or  
(iii) an ability to induce cell migration, cell survival and/or an increase in intracellular levels of alkaline phosphatase.

28. (Original) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 27 wherein the proteinaceous molecule has the capacity to induce astroglial proliferation.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid according to claim 26 wherein said nucleic acid is of human origin.

31.-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously presented) A process for the production of biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 3 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.

47. (Previously presented) A process for the production of a biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 5 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.

48. (Previously presented) A process for the production of a biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 7 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.

49. (Previously presented) A process for the production of a biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 9 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.

50.-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

57. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

58. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

59. (New) A process for the production of biologically active VEGF-B, said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule comprising nucleotides 66 to 626 of SEQ ID NO:3 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.

60. (New) A process for the production of biologically active VEGF-B said method comprising expressing a nucleic acid molecule consisting of nucleotides 66 to 626 of SEQ ID NO:3 in a host and isolating said VEGF-B.